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CEO: Mrs L Whitehouse

Head of Education Primary: Mr R Darling

Friday 20th March 2020

Update in light of Government information last night (19.3.20)

Dear Parents/ Carer,

Late last night schools had updated guidance on who qualifies to access school-based provision from the Government. Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response **and cannot be safely cared for at home**.

Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

For those of you who are classes as 'key personnel', we would ask that you look carefully at the groups below. If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, **and you cannot keep your child safe at home** then your children will be prioritised for education provision.

- **Health and social care**

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

- **Education and childcare**

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

- **Key public services**

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

- **Local and national government**

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies.

- **Food and other necessary goods**

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

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- **Public safety and national security**

This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

- **Transport**

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

- **Utilities, communication and financial services**

For safeguarding purposes, and to enable us to plan appropriate staffing numbers for Monday, please could you **let your school office know by the end of today** if you would like to take up a place. If you have previously indicated this, via email, you do not need to get in touch again. Obviously, we are running on severely reduced staffing, so you may not get through to us straight away.

Please note - you may be challenged if school believes that you are choosing to send your child into school when it is not absolutely necessary. We need to work together to reduce the spread of this terrible illness.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Darling

Head of Education, Primary

Inspire Education Trust

Lois Whitehouse

CEO

Inspire Education Trust